

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ".ROBERT W. DUEMLING
APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 031558 TOSEC 030046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: JAPAN AND CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE
REVELATIONS (S/S 7602732)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM INGERSOLL

1. VERY EARLY THIS MORNING I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE JAPANESE EMBASSY ADVISING ME THAT DEPUTY VICE MINISTER ARITA (SECOND HIGHEST CAREER OFFICIAL IN THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY) HAD ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON, AT THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION OF MIKI AND MIYAZAWA, TO DISCUSS WITH ME THE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON LOCKHEED. WE HAD NO PRIOR NOTICE OF ARITA'S MISSION. I MET WITH HIM THIS MORNING IN MY APARTMENT (HE IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY PRESS KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRIP). ARITA HAD SEVERAL SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, AS FOLLOWS.

2. WILL JAPANESE OFFICIALS' NAMES BE REVEALED? I TOLD ARITA THAT WE HAD CATEGORIC ASSURANCES FROM SENATOR PERCY AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S GENERAL COUNSEL THAT OFFICIALS' NAMES WILL NOT BE REVEALED.

3. WILL THE SUBCOMMITTEE BE MAKING FURTHER DISCLOSURES
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ABOUT JAPAN? WE UNDERSTAND THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED

DISCUSSION OF JAPAN. AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THIS WEEK A TRANSCRIPT WILL BE AVAILABLE OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S EXECUTIVE SESSION OF LAST WEEK, AND A COPY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS, ARITA SAID:

A. PRESS SPECULATION IN TOKYO HAS CENTERED ON TANAKA AND NAKASONE (MITI MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE LOCKHEED PAYMENTS) AS THE OFFICIALS MOST LIKELY TO HAVE RECEIVED FUNDS CHanneled THROUGH KODAMA, OSANO AND THE FIRM OF MARUBENI.

B. THE GOJ WILL LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION OF ITS OWN. IT COULD HARDLY DO OTHERWISE: THE DIET IS IN SESSION AND THE OPPOSITION IN FULL CRY. EVERY OPPOSITION PARTY HAS ESTABLISHED AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE, AND WILL SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO WASHINGTON TO CONDUCT FURTHER INQUIRIES. ARITA COULD NOT PREDICT THE POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS. THE MIKI GOVERNMENT COULD FALL AND BE REPLACED BY A GOVERNMENT WITH DIFFERENT ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S. OR MIKI MIGHT BE OBLIGED TO POSTPONE GENERAL ELECTIONS UNTIL CLOSER TO THE DECEMBER 1976 CONSTITUTIONAL LIMIT.

C. THE GOJ INVESTIGATION WILL FOCUS ON INCOME TAX RETURNS AND VIOLATIONS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS. JAPANESE LAW DOES NOT PROHIBIT POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRIVATE FIRMS, INCLUDING FOREIGN FIRMS.

5. ARITA AND I SHARE THE VIEW THAT THIS EPISODE WILL HAVE NO IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON U.S.-JAPANESE RELATIONS. I ASSURED HIM THAT THE USG IN ANY CASE WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS POLICY.

6. ARITA STRESSED THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS STRICTLY TO GATHER INFORMATION AND WAS IN NO WAY MEANT TO INFLUENCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (IN ANY OF ITS BRANCHES). I SUGGESTED TO ARITA THAT HE MIGHT WISH TO TALK WITH FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS (WHOSE FIRM REPRESENTS LOCKHEED) OR TO LOCKHEED OFFICIALS DIRECTLY. ARITA RESPONDED THAT HE WILL
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BE TALKING WITH AMB. TOGO (HO ARRIVES TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 10) AND WILL SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM TOKYO, BUT THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT HE WILL RETURN HOME WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. INGERSOLL

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